

107TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5655

To name the Department of Veterans Affairs in Houston, Texas, as the “Michael E. DeBakey Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center”.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 16, 2002

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas (for herself, Mr. HALL of Texas, Mr. BARTON of Texas, Mr. BENTSEN, Mr. EVANS, Mr. WELDON of Florida, Mr. STENHOLM, Mr. TURNER, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. FROST, and Mr. ARMEY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs

A BILL

To name the Department of Veterans Affairs in Houston, Texas, as the “Michael E. DeBakey Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center”.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. FINDINGS.**

4 Congress finds as follows:

5 (1) Dr. DeBakey played a critical role in estab-
6 lishing and developing the Department of Veterans
7 Affairs Medical Center in Houston, Texas. He has
8 successfully elevated its professional staff and qual-

1 ity healthcare to meet high standards of excellence
2 and encouraged minorities to fulfill their potential in
3 education, and particularly in the health professions.

4 (2) Dr. DeBakey's dedication to the Depart-
5 ment of Veterans Affairs Medical Center is ongoing.
6 He is still chairman of the Dean's Committee of the
7 Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, as
8 he has been since the beginning of the institution.

9 (3) Dr. DeBakey brought both the City of
10 Houston and the State of Texas international rec-
11 ognition for the Texas Medical Center through his
12 pioneering of medical research, his leadership at
13 Baylor College of Medicine, his national and inter-
14 national medical statesmanship, and his cham-
15 pioning of the rights and the welfare of the under-
16 privileged.

17 (4) Dr. DeBakey is credited with the develop-
18 ment of the Mobile Army Surgical Hospitals
19 (MASH) concepts for the military, which has led to
20 saving thousands of lives during the Korean and
21 Vietnam conflicts, as well as the development of spe-
22 cialized medical and surgical center systems in order
23 to treat returning military personnel.

24 (5) During World War II, he served as Colonel
25 in the United States Army assigned to the Surgical

1 Consultant Division in the office of the Surgeon
2 General. His active duty service ran from 1942 to
3 1946. He remained on active duty in 1946 and re-
4 cruited 100 additional specialists to care for World
5 War II wounded military personnel in U.S. Army
6 specialty centers.

7 (6) For his service in the armed forces, Dr.
8 DeBakey received the Legion of Merit.

9 **SEC. 2. NAME OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**
10 **MEDICAL CENTER, HOUSTON, TEXAS.**

11 (a) The Department of Veterans Affairs medical cen-
12 ter in Houston, Texas, shall after the date of the enact-
13 ment of this Act be known and designated as the “Michael
14 E. DeBakey Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Cen-
15 ter”.

16 **SEC. 3. REFERENCES.**

17 Any reference in any law, regulation, map, document,
18 record, or other paper of the United States to the medical
19 center referred to in section 1 shall be considered to be
20 a reference to the Michael E. DeBakey Department of
21 Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

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